



Queensland University of Technology
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Seminar and Book launch: Turning your PhD into a book

DR ALEX DEAGON

LECTURER, FACULTY OF LAW

QUEENSLAND UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY

Program

- ▶ 9:30 Presentation: Turning your PhD into a Book
- ▶ 10:00 Morning Tea
- ▶ 10:15 Q&A Panel: Turning your PhD into a Book
- ▶ 11:30 Book Launch
From Violence to Peace: Theology, Law and Community
Professor Nicholas Aroney

My Journey

- ▶ From awarded dissertation to book publication
- ▶ Chronological
- ▶ Descriptive, not prescriptive

My Journey

- ▶ PhD awarded December 2015
- ▶ Examiner comments incorporated January 2015
- ▶ Monograph Proposal written February-March 2016
- ▶ Submitted to Cambridge University Press 'Christianity and Law' Series March 2016: **rejected**
- ▶ Proposal refined and submitted to Hart Publishing in April 2016, **accepted** in August 2016 after external review
- ▶ Monograph manuscript refined from dissertation August 2016-January 2017
- ▶ Monograph manuscript submitted February 2017
- ▶ Further editing and checking with Hart Editorial Team February 2017 – June 2017
- ▶ Publication August 2017

Writing a Monograph Proposal from a PhD

- ▶ Consider your examiner comments carefully
- ▶ Get a mentor
- ▶ Look at other examples
- ▶ Do your research and target the right publisher (context, quality)
- ▶ Email them to gauge their interest and know specific requirements
- ▶ General parts of a proposal:
 - ▶ Draft Title
 - ▶ Summary of Monograph
 - ▶ Table of Contents and Chapter Summaries
 - ▶ Literature Review and Competing Books
 - ▶ Revision Plan
 - ▶ Market and Readership
 - ▶ Time Frame

Transforming your thesis to a book

- ▶ A book is very different from a thesis. You need to:
- ▶ Remove dissertation formatting
- ▶ Remove extensive, detailed footnotes and quotes
- ▶ Remove methodology sections and isolated literature reviews
- ▶ Remove or significantly reduce repeated content/chapter summaries
- ▶ Remove any ancillary content or digressions from the main argument
- ▶ Limit technical language and complex expression
- ▶ Highlight and foreground the book's argument (original, bold, significant)
- ▶ Emphasise your voice as author (clear, concise, persuasive, engaging/marketable)
- ▶ Sometimes an entire re-write and re-structure will be necessary

Further Resources

- ▶ <http://blogs.lse.ac.uk/impactofsocialsciences/2017/08/01/a-thesis-is-written-for-examiners-an-academic-book-for-scholars-in-general-the-basics-of-writing-a-book-from-your-phd/>
- ▶ <http://www.press.uchicago.edu/Misc/Chicago/288463.html>
- ▶ <https://www.mup.com.au/blog/turning-your-thesis-into-a-book>
- ▶ <https://theprofessorisin.com/2016/02/26/how-to-turn-your-dissertation-into-a-book-a-special-request-post/>



Thank you! Feel free to ask any
questions – remember we have the
Q&A Panel